

was well measured by the fact that his failure to appear for the very start of the meeting was taken by his colleagues as a dire portent of bad news. John Bloomer was never late.

A pall was immediately cast over the State House as the Vermont and American flags were lowered to half staff in the brilliant sunshine of a chill and crystal clear subzero Vermont morning. John Bloomer, Republican senator, was immediately remembered as John Bloomer, dear friend.

Margaret Lucenti, a liberal Democrat who served well with John as clerk of his judiciary committee, said, "He was just a wonderful human being, a friend to everyone."

For me, a fellow member with John of the Rutland County Bar Association, he was a dear and trusted friend. I knew him for as long as I can remember. I will never, ever forget him.

He was a true inspiration to all of us who knew him. John Bloomer was a man of strong convictions that were always tempered by compassion. As we remember his long years of service to Vermont, we will fondly recall his countless deeds of kindness to fellow Vermonters.

My sympathies go out to his wife, Judy, to his brother, and to all his four children and to his countless friends, of which I am proud to count myself one.

He well carried on the Bloomer family tradition of service to the State of Vermont. Our State will miss him, as a tireless public servant and as a caring and concerned human being. And I will miss him as a true friend.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. EXON. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. EXON pertaining to the introduction of S. 189 and S.J. Res. 14 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

HOMICIDES BY GUNSHOT IN NEW YORK CITY

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, at the beginning of the second session of the 103d Congress, I began what became a weekly routine of reporting to the Senate on the number of homicides committed by gunshot in New York City. Not surprisingly, the numbers were shocking. In 1994, a total of 910 victims were shot to death. That is an average of over 17 each week. Many more sustained serious injuries from bullet wounds.

As of Sunday, January 8, 1995, 21 people had been shot to death in New York City. That despite the frigid weather, which often serves as a deterrent to violent crime. Obviously, the problem is not going away.

It is unfortunate that I need to remind my colleagues of these grim statistics. But until we begin to take meaningful steps to remedy this ap-

palling situation, I plan to continue my practice of reporting each week on the terrible death toll by gunshot in New York City.

Thankfully, there is some good news to report. The number of those who lost their lives to gunshot in New York City last year is substantially lower than the number in 1993, which was 1,450. The bad news is that national totals are still on the rise. In 1993, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 16,189 people were killed by firearms, nearly 1,000 more than in the previous year.

We made some important gains in our fight against gun violence in the 103d Congress. First we passed the Brady law in November 1993. Since then we have prevented thousands of fugitives and felons from illegally purchasing guns. Second, as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which was signed by President Clinton on September 13, 1994, the Senate agreed to a ban on 19 types of semiautomatic assault weapons. That same bill also included a provision sponsored by the Senator from New York banning a new class of cop-killer bullets capable of piercing the soft body armor worn by law enforcement officials.

We need to continue to enact tough laws that will begin to curb the plague of gun violence. But with some 200 million firearms in circulation today, and with an estimated 5,479 new ones hitting the streets each day, it seems obvious that gun control can ultimately have only limited success. That is why I have long advocated ammunition control as the best solution to the epidemic of gun violence. While we have a supply of guns that will last us well into the next century, if not longer, we have perhaps only a 3- or 4-year supply of ammunition. The obvious solution, then, is to control the supply of bullets, particularly those used most often in the commission of crimes.

On the first day of the 104th Congress, I introduced six bills, some of which I had introduced in previous Congresses, relating to the subject of ammunition control. Some of these place bans on certain rounds of ammunition, including the deadly Black Talon bullet. Others heavily tax these pernicious bullets. A final bill requires records to be kept with respect to the disposition of ammunition and commissions a national study on the use of bullets. Currently, there are no reporting requirements for manufacturers or importers of ammunition. We need to know how much of what kinds of ammunition are being produced in order to help us craft more intelligent policy in this area.

Mr. President, 1994 saw too many tragic incidents involving guns. Many occurred right here in the city of Washington. Doubtless, many more will occur in 1995. We can, and must, do something about this without delay. I urge my colleagues to support the measures which I have introduced.

Mr. PACKWOOD addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. PACKWOOD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to urge the Senate to take a major step toward making Congress more accountable to the people by passing S. 2, the bill before us, the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

Let us face it. It is easier to make up a set of rules for someone else to play by than to devise guidelines for our own actions. It is easy to pontificate: Do as I say, not as I do.

And that is what we have been doing right here in the U.S. Congress. Congress has been exempting itself from the laws and regulations that everybody else in America has to live with.

Unlike their Government, the people measure such laws against a yardstick of common sense. If a law or regulation is a good idea for everybody else in America, surely the public good requires that it be imposed across the board right here.

As it is, individuals find these laws and regulations more and more onerous. The rules have grown so cumbersome that they now hamper business, small and large, and make everything we buy more expensive.

I do not know. Many of our rules make the goods we hope to export more expensive, threatening our ability to compete in the world markets.

Until now, Congress has totally avoided any firsthand experience with the results of its own rulemaking. But last week the U.S. House of Representatives fired the first shot in what will be a real revolution in Government. It passed its version of the Congressional Accountability Act. I hope the Senate will continue the mission and put this bill on the President's desk.

By making congressional accountability our very first order of business, the first legislation to pass this new session, with so much hope we will be sending a clear message to the American people. Signal received. Congress will comply with the same mandates it imposes on the rest of the country.

Mr. President, I have owned my own small business. I know the Senator in the chair has as well. I know what it is like to make a payroll. I know what it is like to comply with Federal regulations and State regulations and local regulations and still try to squeeze out